

To Whom It May Concern:

We live in a rural upstate community where noticing the happenings of Nature are a large and important part of our lives. This is particularly true of birds. We feed them all year round at our home, participate in local birding field trips, participate in bird counts, and attend local Audubon Society meetings. We are particularly fond of migrating song birds, enjoying their arrivals in the Spring and timing their departures in the Fall. We visit special locations to watch raptors in migration. We notice when the numbers of certain species change over the years; for example, around our home, the number of evening grosbeaks, which used to come in large flocks and a beautiful sight to behold, are now hardly seen at all, even as single birds or pairs. Millions of Americans enjoy this pastime as well.

As the numbers of Americans expand beyond 300 million, we must be continuously conscious of how we impact Nature and its aviary inhabitants, for good or ill. If we can significantly reduce birdkills at communication towers by investing in more effective strobe lighting for these towers, we must do it. (This is all the more sensible because it helps aviation safety as well.) This should be done at existing as well as new/future towers. We urge monopole construction without use of guywires at all new tower sights. And, finally, with the number of new tower sites expected to increase phenomenally over the next several years, environmental impact statements should be required by some responsible government agency before construction is permitted. Otherwise, things will just get out of hand. We must continue to be good and watchful stewards of Nature's aviary inhabitants.

Sincerely yours,  
Graham and Dee Wightman

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